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ABSTRACT

Tracing the history of South Dakota State University's Hilton M. Briggs Library over the past 102 years, this occasional paper describes the development of what is now the largest library (over 1.1 million total pieces) in the South Dakota Library Network from its inception as part of a small land grant college. Administrative eras are reviewed, most notably those of William Powers (1905-36), H. Dean Stallings (1937-48), Alfred Trump (1948-72), and Leon Raney (1972 to present), in light of the impact of changes and growth in such areas as staffing, salaries, library organization, library services, library technical processes, collection development, funding, architecture, and the advent of the electronics revolution. A prediction for record growth in 1988 in the areas of collections and user services at Briggs Library is made in the closing remarks. (CGD)

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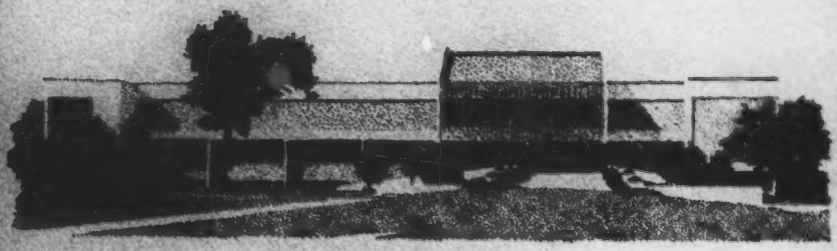
Hilton M. Briggs Library

Occasional Paper Number 1

South Dakota State University's Library: A History



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South Dakota State University's Library: A History

Philip Brown

Hilton M. Briggs Library Occasional Paper

Number 1

Brookings, South Dakota
December, 1987

The Pioneer Period, 1885-1905

Beginnings are usually small and hesitant; so it was for Dakota Agricultural College and its library. The territorial legislature chartered the college in 1881 as a land grant college under the Morrill Act of 1862; it was 1884 before its first building (Old Central, now razed) was erected and the first classes held. Following the tradition of the frontier, the first college catalog, issued in 1885, exaggerated the facts, claiming a library collection of "about 500 reference books" including encyclopedias, dictionaries, standard works and U.S. government publications. In fact, it had as many as 100 U.S. documents sent by the territorial representative to Congress and about twenty subscriptions to territorial newspapers and farm periodicals donated by the publishers. Only when the second floor was vacated as a girls dormitory after a second building was completed about Thanksgiving 1885, was a southeast room designated as a reading room, and it was shared with the museum, which moved in the fall of 1887. Only then did the library have a room of its own.

By 1886 additional U.S. documents and two private donations of up to 140 volumes were received. The first actual purchases occurred that year—reference books. Noah Webster's *Dictionary of the English Language*, by dint of the lowest number among purchased books in the accession book started in 1890, can be designated the first

Old Central, home of the library, 1885-93 and 1897-1927

book bought for the library. By the end of 1886 the library had 382 volumes; regular purchases and more shipments of U.S. documents led to a collection of over 1,000 volumes before statehood. Purchased subscriptions (26) to national periodicals were first placed in 1887. In November 1889, a few scant days after statehood, the library became South Dakota's first federal documents depository.

The first person noted specifically with responsibility for the library was a student, J. M. Aldrich, who was placed in charge of the reading room in January 1886. Soon, however, one or another faculty member was designated as librarian, although students were used to operate the library. Mrs. Nancy Van Doren, only woman ever to head the library, held the title librarian along with her teaching duties from 1886 or '87 until her position was abolished in 1890. She was a victim of the budget cut imposed by the first state legislature in response to drought and debt inherited from Dakota Territory.

Her replacement, Robert F. Kerr, A.B., 1877, and M.A., 1880, De Pauw University, a professor of history and political economy since 1885, was officially designated "Librarian of the Experiment Station;" only $100 of his $1,400 annual salary was for his duties as librarian. The college looked for its very survival to the ongoing federal appropriation for an experiment station as authorized in the second Morrill Act of 1890, and the library's meagre funding for much of the nineties was mainly from the Morrill or Experiment Station appropriations. A struggle over the present and future scope of the school ensued on campus and among the two-tier governance structure—the Board of Trustees of the college and the Regents of Education. Kerr, outspoken in favoring continuance of the liberal arts, found himself abruptly fired in November 1892. Initially replacing Kerr as librarian and professor from 1893 to 1896 was John Monroe Parkinson, A.M. and L.L.B. (colleges unknown). From mid-1896 to the end of 1898, Frank Gregory Orr, who had not completed a college degree, served as librarian in addition to duties as secretary of the college and assistant in the Commercial Department. Kerr returned to the college in 1898 and as librarian in January 1899. He remained until 1905 when he resigned to become secretary to Governor Elrod.

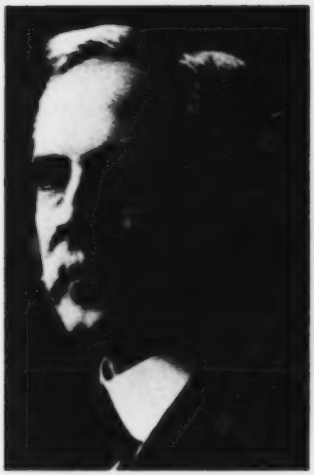
Only with Kerr's return in 1899 did the library begin to receive the majority of the time of the librarian; he reported spending about seven hours per day on the library (even in the twenties the major part of the librarian's salary was for his teaching). Kerr recorded the 5,000th accession in November 1899; at least one half were bound U.S. documents. He found himself in the first years of his return catching up on a cataloging backlog—perhaps most of the collection. While some evidence of a limited card catalog was recorded in 1888, Kerr acquired the first ALA accession book in 1890 to record accessions systematically, and he corresponded with a librarian at Iowa Agricultural College that year about making a "finding list" (book catalog). She instructed him by return letter in the advantages of a card catalog. The records omit all mention of when the library began to use Dewey Decimal Classification; it could be any time from 1887 to sometime in the nineties; it clearly had been adopted by Kerr's return.

Although a small operation through all these years, the library regularly needed more space. In 1893 it moved into the first floor of Old Extension (now razed); in 1897 it moved back to Old Central to occupy space on the first floor. It needed more space again by 1902, but Kerr was thwarted in his hopes for the Mechanical Building and had to move 500 older government documents into a basement storage room. Materials in storage would continue until 1927 although the library gradually gained the use of most of the first floor of Old Central in the next fifteen years.

By the end of Kerr's second stint the budget for library materials had finally surpassed the $500 of the last year of Dakota Territory at $611.60 in 1904-05. Periodical subscriptions required over $150 of that sum. The collection in June 1905 after twenty years reached only 6,779 volumes, including bound periodicals, and half as many "pamphlets" or unaccessioned items.

The Powers Era, 1905-1936

William H. Powers, A.B., 1891, Miami University, A.M., Harvard, 1899, came to South Dakota Agricultural College in 1905 as librarian and professor of English from a similar position at Huron College. He was to cut a wide swath in the library field of the young state. He promoted the reorganization of the nascent South Dakota Library Association as an affiliate of the South Dakota Education



Robert F. Kerr, Librarian, 1890-1892 and 1899-1905

William H. Powers, Librarian, 1905-1936

Association in 1906 and served as its president from 1906 to 1911. He led SDLA's effort to win legislation establishing the South Dakota Library Commission in 1913, was a member continuously until 1928, and under its aegis in 1914-15 edited the first volume of the *South Dakota Library Bulletin*, to which he was a frequent contributor over the years. In 1912 he helped organize the Brookings Free Library Association and the next year became its president for several years. He acquired the $10,000 Carnegie grant that built the Brookings Public Library.

Finances improved after Powers' arrival; by 1911, the library's budget exclusive of salaries reached $1,000, and accessions, including bound deposited U.S. documents, were over 1,000 volumes per year. The budget exclusive of salaries peaked at $2,500 in 1913-14 and 1914-15, and accessions reached 2,129 in the latter year; a record that stood until 1928-29, when 2,635 additions were recorded. Expenditures for materials increased markedly in 1921-22 to $2,700 and reached $4,250 in 1930-31—the high for the Powers years. The next year the total budget reached $10,808 (the only time over $10,000 in Powers' tenure) as staff increased.

In 1906 Powers acquired an assistant who cataloged and supervised the public area. Miss Carrie Louise Phillips, Assistant Librarian, 1906-1912, and a 1905 M.S. graduate of South Dakota Agricultural College, earned a library certificate from Wisconsin Library School at Madison in the summer of 1907. She was the first librarian at SDSU who is known to have obtained formal training in library science. Others similarly educated followed in this position with library study occurring in summers after employment. A second assistant librarian was not added until 1931. Harlan Brown, who was hired that year, had both B.A.and B.S. degrees, the latter probably in library science. If so, he was the first librarian at South Dakota State College to have a library degree.

Almost from his beginning at South Dakota Agricultural College, Powers was lamenting overcrowded quarters even though more space was acquired twice during the teens. His hopes for new construction were dashed again and again by the college, the legislature and Andrew Carnegie. During 1919-20 a second floor was laid above some of the shelving and a second layer of stacks added. The system was extended in 1921-22—leading Powers to call the library's facility the "most unsightly accommodations any where to be found in the United States."

In 1925 the legislature imposed a luxury tax on cigarettes, and the first proceeds were appropriated for a new library at South Dakota State College. The resulting Lincoln Memorial Library was completed in 1927 at a cost of $200,000. It was dedicated by President Calvin

Lincoln Memorial Library, home of the library, 1927-77; now Lincoln Music Hall

Coolidge on September 10; the library moved in during the following Christmas vacation. Built around a closed-stack core and a large, high-ceilinged reading room in the ideal of the academic library of that period, the 39,000 sq. ft. building was about one-third devoted to classrooms and faculty offices. Those areas were intended for eventual library expansion from the beginning, and the 25 years after 1948 would witness the gradual expansion of library collections and services into those rooms.

Powers suffered a fatal heart attack in the library in November 1936, ending over 31 years as librarian. At his death, the collection size was about 56,000, or almost 50,000 more than when he arrived in 1905. A total of 10,000 had been reached by the end of 1909, 20,000 by 1916, 36,500 by the move into Lincoln Library, and 50,000 by late 1933. Funding had never been plentiful—always half or less that of the University of South Dakota, near the bottom of all land grant colleges based on expenditure per student or total expenditures, and far below any standards suggested nationally. Finally, in the crisis of the thirties, the library's materials budget was kept from dropping below the average of the twenties by imposing a library fee on students, which Powers called a "tax."

The Stallings Decade, 1937-1948

H. Dean Stallings, A.B., 1933, Stanford, and B.S. (library science), 1935, University of Illinois, was first hired as assistant librarian in 1935. In the fall of 1936 he was on leave of absence working on an M.L.S. at the University of Illinois when Powers died. He took over as librarian in January 1937 and completed his M.L.S. in 1940. He began three terms as president of SDLA in 1937 and was appointed to the State Library Commission in 1943. Locally, he served as acting head of the Physical Education Department in 1938-39 and as track coach in 1941 and 1942, perhaps the only academic library director in history to coach a major sport.

Stallings wasted no time in making innovations to improve the library. A new style of circulation slips was adopted immediately, and the first circulation statistics were collected. He wanted to strengthen the reference and bibliography collection and would make significant strides in that area during his tenure. Typical of the pattern in academic libraries of the period, he began extensive analytical cataloging of series and serials, making use of

fine Library of Congress catalog cards. He started the cataloging of periodicals and also U.S. documents in an effort to improve the latter's low usage. He succeeded in getting a second cataloger hired in 1937, bringing the staff to four—Stallings and three assistants with at least B.S. degrees in librarianship. He also pushed hard for budget increases, noting the library was below par by many measures of size and rate of collection growth. Even in the transitional year of Powers' death and Stallings' return, the total budget set a record, $11,656, but the student fee produced almost as much as the "state allotment" (appropriated funds for all expenses except salaries) of $3,340. The next year the accessions record of 1928-29 was broken with the aid of the gift of 950 volumes from Powers' personal library; 3,229 volumes were added. Further gifts, heavy use of exchange, and a growing budget permitted another record of 4,387 in 1938-39, which would stand until 1949-50.

Although the rapid budget growth of Stallings' first years slowed markedly even before American entry into World War II, the coming of war wreaked havoc with the budget and staffing. In the last year of the war, periodical subscription costs exceeded expenditures for books for the first time in history as the library struggled to maintain continuous runs of its periodicals. In 1942 the exit of staff to war began when a cataloger joined the WAVES. Stallings himself joined the Navy in June 1944, leaving only one assistant librarian and a part time clerical assistant transferred from elsewhere on campus to run the library for most of the next year. Staffing returned to its normal four by the end of 1945-46, but instability hit hard over the next two years. When Stallings resigned in May 1948, only a full time and two part-time clerical workers remained for the summer. The budget bounced back to a record level by 1947-48, but inflation reduced the purchasing power so that no records were being set in accessions.

By the time of Stallings' resignation the library's collection had grown to 88,683 volumes. Growth in the second half of his time was slower—14,150 as against 18,500 in the first. The number of periodical subscriptions had jumped from 375 in his first year to 535 four years later; the figure probably ceased growing thereafter as it was omitted from the annual report, and it may have dropped at the end of the war. A microfilm reader ("Argus reading machine") was purchased very early (1939-40) for using microfilms commissioned from large

libraries in lieu of loans; very little, if any, microfilm was purchased in Stallings' tenure. Government maps were acquired during the war, and afterwards the library became a depository for U.S. Geological Survey maps.

H. Dean Stallings, Librarian, 1937-1948

Alfred G. Trump, Director of the Library, 1948-1972

Trump's Quarter Century, 1948-1972

Alfred G. Trump, Ph.B., 1929, University of Chicago, and A.B.L.S., 1933, and A.M.L.S., 1938, University of Michigan, came to SDSC in September 1948 from Virginia (Minn.) Junior College, where he had been the librarian, to find a budget above its pre-war peak but virtually no staff due to vacancies. In fact, after one month only a 3/4th time clerical in periodicals remained from the previous year. From that low point he was to preside over the years of greatest growth in collections and staffing of the library. After his retirement as director in 1972, he continued on the staff until 1977 and age 70.

His first two years saw extra funds added to the library's budget in mid-year as a result of the income generated by the G.I. Bill-supported influx of veterans and a recognition that the library had suffered during the war. The expenditures for materials passed $10,000 for the first time in 1948-49 ($15,113) and jumped to $20,602 the next year, which also saw the pre-war record for accessions broken with 4,407 volumes net added. Two

weak years followed with expenditures for materials under $10,000 as dropping enrollments caused mid-year budget cuts for the library.

Thereafter, booming enrollments and an expansion of the graduate program to the Ph.D. in a few fields after 1955 led to expanding budgets and new records in accessions fairly regularly. The process peaked in 1968-69 with a record net addition of 15,653 volumes. The expenditures for materials exceeded $50,000 for the first time in 1959-60 and $100,000 in 1966-67, and they reached $214,836 in 1969-70, the high-water mark during Trump's tenure. That year was the last big year of the late sixties' inpouring of federal funds for books as the library received $35,039 from the federal government—its peak in federal aid. In the last three years under Trump's leadership, the total library budget was about $400,000; peaking at $419,759 in 1971-72, his last year as director.

Meanwhile, the climb in the total collection was markedly more rapid than before, especially after 1955. The library passed the 100,000 mark in 1952, it reached 200,000 volumes early in 1969, and the collection stood at 245,744 volumes when Trump stepped down as director in 1972. Likewise, the number of periodical subscriptions increased during most years of Trump's directorship. When the doctoral program began in the mid-fifties scientific journals were given first priority in building up the library's collections. Periodical subscriptions went up 42 percent in 1955-56 alone, and by 1959 Trump reported 1,750 current subscriptions. Steady increases brought the total to 3,026 by 1972. The library also vastly expanded its collection of national bibliographies; the entire *Library of Congress Catalog* series was acquired and a subscription entered for the *National Union Catalog Pre-1956 Imprints*. In addition, the library greatly increased the number of serial bibliographies and abstracting services it received. Outside experts rated the scientific periodicals and these bibliographic publications as the outstanding strengths of the library late in the Trump years.

Staff expansion occurred frequently during Trump's tenure. It was only during the forties that two distinct classes of full time staff emerged as a level of clerical employees was inserted between the librarians and the part-time student workers. In Trump's first year staffing consisted of three professional librarians, two clericals, and two part-time clericals. The first increase in staffing

was the placement of a displaced person in an "internship" in January 1950. Janis Zarins, a librarian from Latvia, became a permanent employee as a cataloger in the next fiscal year; he would retire in 1975 after the most years service of any librarian other than Powers and Trump himself. In 1955 when an acquisitions librarian was appointed, that duty was separated from the head of the library for the first time—although Trump would continue a major role in selection until his retirement. Over the years a greater reliance on clerical staff developed; the staff included nine librarians and sixteen clericals in 1970.

Gradually the librarians' status as faculty was regularized. Trump was the first librarian other than Powers (whose rank was associated with his teaching literature) to have a faculty rank listed in the college catalog. In the early fifties those librarians who taught the one-credit library orientation course also had faculty rank in the college catalog. Thereafter, more librarians began to have a faculty rank listed, but the entire professional staff was not listed with faculty ranks until 1969-70.

Lincoln Library was 21 years old when Trump arrived; in his first years he oversaw the installation of the last increment of shelving in the stack room and then estimated the building would need an addition or replacement by the early sixties. Even before the stack completion he began seeking expansion of the library into parts of the building used for classrooms and offices. Four seminar rooms were acquired for library use in 1952, and then began the frequent shifting of offices, collections, and points of service to accommodate the burgeoning collections, staff, and users. The first major absorption of classrooms came when the three classrooms in the basement were rebuilt into a periodical reading room in 1959. The process was completed in 1973. Meanwhile, the library first acquired storage space in the basement of a dormitory in 1960, added shelving along corridors in 1964, opened a branch library for chemistry and pharmacy in 1965, and established more storage in a second dormitory in 1968. By 1970 Trump reported 40,000 volumes were in storage in the two dormitories.

In his earlier years at SDSC Trump considered Lincoln Library well-designed. By the mid-fifties he had come to favor the open-stacks concept and also had concluded that Lincoln Library could not satisfactorily be turned into an

open-stacks library. Thereafter he favored a new building over an addition. By 1970 he approached Powers' stridency on the subject in the early twenties by writing, "Action to secure a new library is imperative." In his last biennial report, he cited a long list of space problems, including the expedient of using eight shelves to a section with books on their fore-edges on the lower four shelves, and concluded that things would only get worse until a new building was achieved.

While growth and crowding are the dominant themes of Trump's years as director, other changes can be noted. In his first year, the library bought the back file of the Sioux Falls *Argus Leader* on microfilm—its first significant acquisition of microfilm. In 1950 the first microcards were purchased. Both media were frequently used thereafter to fill in back files of serials and for newspapers. Beginning in 1963-64, the library gave early volumes of periodicals to a microfilm publisher in exchange for microfilm replacements; this tactic gained space in the crowded stacks at the same time it depressed the growth of the volume count. Microform collections were substantial by 1972: 7,652 reels of microfilm, 48,035 microcards, and 30,739 sheets of microfiche.

The 1958-60 biennium was particularly rich in changes in library organization that continue in some form to the present. The card catalog was divided into subject and author-title sequences. A faculty reading room for examining new books and new issues of journals was established in a former seminar room. On January 1, 1960, the library switched to using the Library of Congress Classification to gain the maximum advantage of Library of Congress cataloging. It began a reclassification project for its monographs that considerably raised the level of discarding due to more systematic weeding—in some years more than fifty percent of new accessions. This decision, coming shortly after separating the periodicals in the stacks to be serviced by a separate circulation counter in the new basement periodicals room, led in time to the South Dakota State University practice of maintaining periodicals in a different classification (Dewey) than books. At the same time, the library reversed Stallings' effort to catalog U.S. documents and adopted the Superintendent of Documents Classification for organizing its documents collection.

The library also embraced new technology. It acquired a Xerox copier in 1965—the beginning of a major service

that changed research habits of students and faculty. The library's first adoption of automation came in 1952 when campus automated data processing equipment was first used to create periodical order records utilizing Hollerith (IBM) cards and batch processing. In the late sixties the library's book ordering system was similarly computerized with a side benefit by 1971 of creating copy for the monthly *New Books List*.

By 1972, when Trump stepped down as director, the scale of most aspects of the library was vastly different than in 1948. The staff was nearly five times larger, the collection had nearly tripled, the total budget had grown ten times larger, the expenditures for materials were twelve times as large, the current subscriptions list had over five times as many titles, and annual accessions had more than quadrupled. These changes reflected growth of the college in enrollment and into university status and the greater resources which the state and federal governments were willing to devote to higher education after World War II. Nevertheless, throughout most of his tenure Trump could point out that the library remained severely below national standards on measures for holdings, accessions, staffing, and budget. Because most college and university libraries also experienced rapid growth, SDSU's library gained little in comparative ratings with regional universities or with land grant universities.

Dr. Leon Raney, Dean of Libraries, 1972-

The Raney Years Begin, 1972-1987

Leon Raney, B.S.E., 1960, Arkansas State College, M.S. (library science), 1962, Louisiana State University, Ph.D., 1972, Indiana University, came to South Dakota State University in October 1972 as the first librarian in the state to hold a doctorate in library science. Prior to his doctorate studies, he had most recently been acquisitions librarian at the University of Oklahoma. In his first decade he took an active role in state, regional, and national library affairs. He served on the board of trustees of the Bibliographical Center for Research, 1977-1982, and on several American Library Association bodies, and he was the state's ALA councilor, 1979-1984. In the eighties he has taken a major leadership role in the statewide automation project. He also conducted a consultancy to the library of Botswana Agricultural College in the winter of 1981 as part of SDSU's Agency for International Development contract. SDLA named him Librarian of the Year in 1983.

Raney's first five years saw the replacement of Lincoln Library by a new building, the Hilton M. Briggs Library, which was created for use solely as a library as well as three times larger than Lincoln Library. The Board of Regents named this largest library structure in South Dakota as a surprise honor for a president of SDSU who stepped down in 1975. The legislature approved construction in 1974, and the bids in the depth of the 1974-75 recession came in over one-half million dollars below the estimated cost of $4.2 million. Part of the savings were used to expand the building more than ten percent and thus provide for several additional years of growth. Briggs Library was designed as an open-stacks library using the first electronic book detection system in South Dakota for security. It also features open, modular construction, air conditioning, carpeting, and color for a pleasant, inviting atmosphere that immediately attracted increased numbers of student and faculty users. Moving library collections and services from Lincoln Library, the branch library, and the two storage sites into Briggs Library required three weeks in August 1977. The move used a farm hay elevator to raise boxes of books into the top floor.

While a much-needed building was being realized, the dropping priority for higher education and the accelerating inflation of the seventies (especially for books and periodicals—most of all in scientific/technical fields)

Hilton M. Briggs Library, opened in 1977

led to declining accessions. The abrupt drop in federal aid after 1970 was not replaced by state funds; only in 1974-75 did expenditures for materials surpass 1969-70, the peak year of federal aid. The library was able, however, to add 47 percent fewer volumes that year than in its peak year, 1968-69, six years earlier. For the next eight years the annual growth averaged less than 10,000 volumes even though expenditures for materials exceeded $250,000 for the first time in 1975-76 and stood at $400,000 in 1982-83.

The lagging funding and the disproportionate inflation of the prices of scholarly periodicals caused a fundamental change in periodicals' share of the budget. New subscriptions continued to be added in the early seventies; to maintain the periodical subscriptions, funding for them rapidly advanced to nearly one half of the materials budget by 1972-73. A nearly complete freeze on new subscriptions was imposed in 1972-73, and then in the three years from 1974-75 to 1976-77 the subscription list was trimmed ten percent. Nevertheless, periodical costs exceeded spending for books beginning in 1978-79 (the only prior instances being two years at the end of World War II), and in some years of Raney's first decade the library added more volumes of bound periodicals than books.

The inflation of periodical costs affected all the Regents' colleges; a 1981 special appropriation for books for all the colleges nearly brought spending for books back

even with periodicals in 1981-82. The next year was the worst yet: costs of periodicals exceeded expenditures for books and continuations by 67 percent. That year the legislature provided a more permanent augmentation of the materials budgets of all the colleges by authorizing a one dollar fee from students for each credit hour undertaken. The legislature thus provided the same solution to lagging tax support as in the Depression thirties. In its first year, 1984-85, the library fee added $200,000 to the materials budget at SDSU—a 54 percent addition to regular funding that pushed the materials budget over one-half million dollars for the first time.

The new continuing funds allowed the library to end the freeze on subscription requests from the faculty that had been in effect for a decade. The number of subscriptions increased ten percent in two years and stood at 3,501 in 1986-87—up nearly 600 from the 1976-77 low for the Raney years and nearly 300 from 1973-74 before the cuts. Declining book purchases had been an even more severe problem than the freeze and cut in subscriptions, and the larger share of the student-fee revenues went for books. As a result, beginning in 1983-84 the volumes-added totals exceeded those of any other years except during the late-sixties era of significant federal aid. Nevertheless, periodical costs remained greater than spending for books. This pattern, which has lasted almost a decade, may be permanent for this library in a predominantly scientific and technical university such as SDSU, where the average paid subscription cost $131.14 in 1986-87.

The library collection grew less rapidly than Raney considered desirable throughout most of the seventies and eighties. The volume count passed 250,000 early in 1973, it was the fall of 1982 when the holdings reached 333,334, and the traditional volume count stood at 395,005 at the end of 1986-87. The growth of the microform collection, exclusive of government documents, for most of the Raney era was markedly lower than during Trump's tenure. The 87,426 pieces of microforms in 1972 had increased to only 100,909 in 1982. In June of 1985 the library had the largest single accession in its history when the 96,753 ERIC microfiche belonging to the closed University of South Dakota—Springfield were transferred to SDSU. A subscription to ERIC was then established. At the end of 1986-87 the library held, exclusive of deposited U.S. government publications on microfiche, 137,652 ERIC microfiche, 84,417 other

microfiche, 12,903 reels of microfilm, and 49,418 microcards for a total of 284,390 microforms. Meanwhile the growth of the documents collection was the most rapid of any segment of the collection during the Raney years prior to acquiring ERIC microfiche. The library held 174,504 U.S. documents (including U.S. Geological Survey maps) in 1972, the number grew to 319,757 in 1982, and by the end of 1986-87 the total stood at 399,888 and had exceeded the accessioned-volume count since late 1984.

The ERIC microfiche from USD—Springfield brought the library's total holdings near the one million piece milestone; it was passed in the fall of 1985. Thus, the library's collection had grown from one hundred to one million in one hundred years from 1885 to 1985. The collection contained 1,088,776 items, including small phonodisc and textbook collections not noted above, at the end of 1986-87.

The library's budget grew during most years after 1972-73 in the seventies, but it was outpaced by inflation. It surpassed the $500,000 mark in 1974-75, and it temporarily went above one million dollars in 1981-82 with the special appropriation for books—the first time any academic library in the state had a budget over one million dollars. It exceeded one million dollars permanently in 1983-84 with the introduction of the student fee and reached $1,423,475 in 1986-87. In this year expenditures for materials reached two-thirds million dollars for the first time ($666,886).

The staffing level varied very little after reaching twenty-seven in Raney's first year; it consisted of ten librarians and seventeen classified assistants that year. The size of the classified staff dropped gradually after the more efficient Briggs Library with a reduced number of service points opened; the professional staff increased by two in the same years. In 1986-87 twelve librarians and fourteen classified staff comprised the total staff of twenty-six—one less than in Raney's first year.

Faculty status of librarians was furthered by the advent of a faculty union. When the faculty voted for collective bargaining in the late seventies, non-administrative librarians were included in the bargaining unit. Contract language about tenure required a "terminal degree," and at SDSU the terminal degree for librarians was defined as

an ALA-accredited M.L.S. plus a second master's degree in a subject field (or a Ph.D. in library science). Librarians granted tenure since 1978 needed both degrees.

Librarians in the Raney years became active in publishing. Although they have authored articles in library periodicals occasionally, most efforts have been in computer-aided indexing and in editing. The first major effort was the compilation of the third edition of the *South Dakota Union List of Periodicals* in 1973. A few years later came an indexed bibliography of the publications of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station and the state Cooperative Extension Service, which are part of SDSU. The outstanding indexing effort began in 1979 when Mrs. Bang Kim started the *Sioux Falls Argus Leader Index*. SDLA honored her as its Librarian of the Year in 1981 in recognition of this publication. Additional indexes of various local newspapers and other South Dakota publications were launched by the mid-eighties. From 1976 through 1983 two SDSU librarians served as editor of SDLA's newsletter, *Book Marks*.

Rapidly developing computer and telecommunications technology greatly changed some library procedures and led to a new service. Grants of federal Library Services and Construction Act funds administered by the State Library affected the timing of the adoption of new technology. Briggs Library became the first publicly-supported library in the state to acquire and use an OCLC terminal for cataloging in the fall of 1977 as part of the equipment purchased for the new building. It began using the Interlibrary Loan Subsystem as soon as it was available in the spring of 1979, and it added the Acquisitions Subsystem late in 1982.

Using LSCA funding, the State Library placed a TWX in the SDSU library in 1974 to speed ILL communications. More LSCA money first supported mail-order online bibliographic database searching through the Bibliographical Center for Research in 1976; two years later its popularity led the State Library to replace the TWX at SDSU with a terminal that could be used to do online searching locally and simultaneously upgrade ILL telecommunications capabilities. Online searching, speedier ILL results through rapid telecommunications, better location information, the OCLC ILL Subsystem, and the statewide access to MINITEX all fed explosive increases in interlibrary loan usage.

The Library continues to embrace developing computer technology. In early 1987 it opened a public microcomputer lab and purchased its first microcomputer software for public use. It has a grant to acquire its first CD-ROM bibliographic search system.

Within three years of beginning cataloging on OCLC, the library began retrospective conversion of cataloging records to machine-readable form using OCLC. Looking forward to an online catalog and an online circulation system, Raney in 1982 wrote, "No decision in my tenure at SDSU will have more long-term impact on the library than the joining of OCLC." Retrospective conversion went into a a high-speed mode that fall as a majority of the staff put in several hours per month on the project. By 1986 retrospective conversion was virtually complete, and the library was ready for an online catalog when funding would become available for the South Dakota Library Network.

Almost unremarked in the bustle of retrospective conversion in 1983 was the completion of the reclassification project begun twenty-three years earlier. Stopped when federal funds bought an unprecedented number of new books in the late sixties, the project had been resumed in Raney's first years with the hope of completion before the move into Briggs Library. Under 3,000 volumes remained to be reclassed at the move, but finishing them became a low priority.

Where does the library stand after fifteen years of Raney's leadership? Many "firsts" or "largests" in the South Dakota context can be claimed, but an outside evaluation is a better measure. The Board of Regents hired consultants to do an evaluation of its college libraries in the fall of 1986. The report noted SDSU's small-but-quality collections and staff, an excellent building, but subpar funding of collections and below-standard staff size. These findings and recommendations coincide with Raney's own during most of his tenure and vary only with respect to the building situation as far as comments of his predecessors back to Powers. There has been considerable progress, however, even if the SDSU library remains low among those of land grant universities or even those with very limited doctoral programs. During Powers' tenure and the Stallings decade, library funding approximated one percent of the college budget. Later improvement has brought it to the 2.5 percent range in recent years. The range among land grant

universities in the mid-eighties was 1.7 percent to over 5 percent, with an average of 3.2 percent. The first fifteen years of Raney's tenure thus have seen a spacious new building and progress in automation to the point of readiness for an online catalog but also a struggle with funding that has not permitted collection growth to equal the best years under Trump (which, however, were marked by substantial federal funding) or allowed expansion of staffing.

Afterword: A Coming Golden Age

The future, even the immediate future, portends great changes for the library. Electronics, in the form of computers and vastly improved telecommunications, has been transforming traditional library functions at an increasing pace over the past twenty years. Briggs Library is rapidly converting into a node of a statewide network to provide bibliographic information and share library collections. The nascent network, called the South Dakota Library Network (SDLN), appears likely to have state funding and to become operational in 1988 in the six state colleges and universities and the South Dakota State Library. It will use PALS software originally developed by the libraries of the Minnesota State Universities system. Initially, it will provide an online, public-access catalog (OPAC) to supercede the card catalog, an online circulation system that is interactive with the OPAC, user access to the OPACs of all the libraries in the system, and an interlibrary loan order and record system among the members. Other library functions are projected to be added to create a multi-library, integrated library automation system. Other libraries in the state will be encouraged to join, and even small libraries will have the option of accessing the system via microcomputer and modem. As the largest library in SDLN, Briggs Library will become truly a library for all South Dakota.

More generally, the library can expect the electronics revolution to bring CD-ROM on an extensive basis within five years and rather common use of publication-on-demand of technical papers and information with a high value on currency from full-text electronic-storage files, which will be maintained by private and public organizations or "publishers." The book, the periodical, and microforms will not disappear but will share the library with the new electronic information-storage media.

Not only is 1988 likely to be the year an OPAC is achieved, but it may also be a year that brings a substantial increase in funding for materials and an expansion of staffing. The Regents are acting upon the findings of the library study team to recommend additional staff and funds for more materials to the legislature. The library may be destined for a golden age. While its collection size stands at 400,000 accessioned volumes and 1.1 million total pieces in late 1987, it may be about to embark on a period of record growth in collections and of service to its users and the state of South Dakota at large.

Note on Sources

The segment on the pioneer period is highly condensed from a paper using all accessible sources that was written for the departmental histories project in 1981 during the South Dakota State University centennial commemoration. The remainder has been based almost entirely upon the annual and biennial reports of the library. The emphases of those reports have influenced the content and themes of this history.